

Remarks

This is in response to the Official Action of April 29, 2005. The points raised in the official action are addressed below in the order originally set forth.

Method claims 1-19 have been cancelled to simplify the issues and place this case in better form for allowance or appeal.

The withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 20 and 22-28 under 35 USC 102(e) by Xu et al. US 2003/0125225) is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 20-25, 27-28, and 37-42 stand rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent No. 6666986 to Vaartstra. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The action suggests that HF would form an adduct with NH₃ (ammonia) which is named in Vaartstra. However, this combination is not suggested in Vaartstra. Vaarstra names NH₃ as a possible choice of supercritical fluid, along with other compounds in a list that includes CO₂. Vaartstra breaks the two primary components of his invention into "supercritical" and "non-supercritical" components, including NH₃ and CO₂ in the former and HF in the latter. Vaarstra does not suggest combining NH₃ along with CO₂ as an additional supercritical component, and then further in combination with HF, to provide an adduct of HF and ammonia in a carbon dioxide composition. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Please note that claim 26, which differs from claim 20 in that it further recites "liquid carbon dioxide", is free of Vaartstra. In addition, please note that claim 37 contains all of the elements of claim 26. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 37 should be free of Vaartstra for the same reasons as claim 26.

Claims 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 37-38 and 40-42 stand rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent No. 6,763,840 to DeSimone et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is said that DeSimone et al. teach a composition comprising liquid carbon dioxide and an adjunct, and that the adjunct can be selected from various acids including HF acid as well as bases such as secondary and tertiary amines). The combination of an acid with a base is neither suggested nor disclosed. Further, the combination of a particular acid, HF, with a particular base, secondary and tertiary amines, is neither suggested nor disclosed. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine one with the other because the combination of an acid with a base would simply neutralize one another. Absent motivation to combine, it is

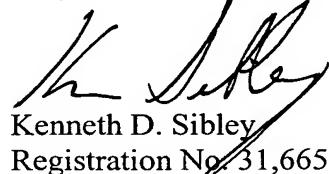
respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Please note that claim 21, which differs from claim 20 in that it further recites "nonaqueous", is free of DeSimone. In addition, please note that claim 37 contains all of the elements of claim 21. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that claim 37 should be free of DeSimone for the same reasons as claim 21.

Independent of the allowability of claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that claim 37, which combines all of the elements of claims 20, 21 and 26, is free of cited Vaartstra and DeSimone prior art for the reasons given above and should be allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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